

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DIWY-01 EA-10 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-07

ERDE-00 /096 W

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P R 111537Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5664

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY CONGRESS

1. LABOR PARTY CONGRESS ON PEACE AND SECURITY OPENED
AFTERNOON APRIL 10. ONLY BUSINESS COMPLETED FIRST DAY
WAS ELECTION MRS. IEN VAN DEN HEUVEL AS NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN.
SHE HAS BEEN ACTING CHAIRMAN SINCE APPOINTMENT FORMER CHAIRMAN
VAN DER LOUW AS MAYOR OF ROTTERDAM, AND IS KNOWN AS
ARDENT PACIFIST AND FERVANT PROMOTER OF EQUAL RIGHTS
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FOR WOMEN.

2. IN POST-LECTION STATEMENT VAN DEN HEUVEL EXPRESSED HOPE CONGRESS WOULD NOT PASS MOTION AGAINST DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN NATO AS THIS COULD ONLY EMBARRASS LABOR MEMBERS OF CABINET AND MIGHT CAUSE REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT BY ONE MUCH MORE TO RIGHT. BUT SHE ALSO SAID "NATO IS CREEPY BUSINESS" AND THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR NATO. SHE SAID PARTY WAS NOT WILLING TO WAIT MUCH LONGER FOR GON RECOGNITION OF PRG. SHE WAS CRITICAL OF MOD VREDELING'S ANNOUNCED PREFERENCE FOR F-16 AS SUCCESSOR TO F-104'S AND SAID SHE HOPED LABOR PARTY AND ITS MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT COULD CONVINCE GOVERNMENT TO "WITHDRAW FROM THESE WICKED PLANS."

3. MOST NOTABLE EVENT ON OPENING DAY OF CONGRESS DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN CONVENTION HALL BUT IN TV STUDIO WHERE MOD VREDELING GAVE INTERVIEW WHICH CAUSED UPROAR AMONGST HIS LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES. VREDELING SAID THAT IF LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS DID NOT SUPPORT HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF F-104'S HE WOULD RESIGN. IMPLICATION IS THAT BY HIS RESIGNATION VREDELING WOULD CAUSE CABINET CRISIS WHICH COULD BRING ABOUT FALL OF DEN UYL GOVERNMENT.

4. PARTY LEADERS REPORTEDLY WERE FURIOUS WITH MOD'S STATEMENT AND WAY IN WHICH IT WAS MADE. LABOR LEADER IN PARLIAMENT VAN THIJN, WHO EARLIER IN THE DAY HAD MADE CONCILIATORY STATEMENT ABOUT VREDELING, SAID NEITHER HE AND OTHER LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS NOR PARTY CONGRESS COULD BE INFLUENCED BY SUCH PRESSURE. LABOR PARTY'S DEFENSE SPOKESMAN DANKERT SAID MOD'S THREAT PUT MONKEY WRENCH IN COMPROMISE THAT WAS BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN CABINET AND LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THIS MATTER.

5. LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE HAS PRESENTED CONGRESS WITH DRAFT ON SELECTION OF 104 SUCCESSOR WHICH ASKS IT BE LOWEST IN COST AND SOPHISTICATION WHICH WOULD SATISFY HOLLAND'S NATO-ASSIGNED GROUND SUPPORT TASK; THAT IT NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ARMS RACE AND THAT IT NOT FULFILL NUCLEAR TASKS. HOWEVER, NOW LIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL PASS MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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STRONGER RESOLUTION.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

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